

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: October 3, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS STRAINER
GIRARD
FRASIER
SOKOL
WOOD
LOEB
VANSELOW

CHRIS HUNSINGER, DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
SHARON SANO, SENIOR COUNSELOR OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
ADMINISTRATION
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS CONOVER
MASON
MCDEVITT
TAYLOR
WESTCOTT
DEAN BOECHER, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SAMANTHA HOGAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Strainer called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Fraiser, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Chris Hunsinger, Director, Employment & Training Administration (ETA), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the Agenda review with Item 1, Mr. Hunsinger presented a request to amend the 2013 County Budget to add \$4,420 in Federal Trade Adjustment Act Funding for reimbursement of the costs associated with the training of 12 dislocated workers.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the budget and refer same to the Finance Committee. A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Sharon Sano, Senior Counselor, Employment & Training Administration. Ms. Sano distributed copies of the Summer Program Report for 2013, A copy of which is on file with the minutes. Ms. Sano proceeded with a review of the Report, following which a brief discussion ensued.

Concluding the Agenda review with the New Business section, Mr. Hunsinger informed of how ETA programs were affected by the Federal Government shut down. He explained that the Federal funding received for 2013 ETA programming was provided in the 2012 Congressional allocations and those funds had been awarded; however, he stated, while the funding for the youth programs was released in April of 2013, the bulk of the funding for the adult and dislocated worker programs was not released until after October 1st, and had now been delayed by the shut down. Mr. Hunsinger advised that if the shut down lasted for more than two months, they would likely run out of funding

for the adult-related programs. He apprised that approximately \$709,000 had been awarded for the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, of which about \$311,000 was available and would sustain payroll and programs for about two months. Mr. Hunsinger noted he had been advised that the available funding for youth-related programs could not be used to support the adult and dislocated worker programs. He continued that it did not make any sense to him to consider a layoff of adult program staff when youth program funding was available. Mr. Hunsinger suggested that if this were to happen, they could change all of the adult program counselors to youth program counselors and have all of the adult program participants sign affidavits indicating that they were age 21 or younger. He concluded that silly requirements were imposed for use of the funds and they were being forced to respond in a similar fashion in order to use the monies.

Mr. Strainer inquired about what might happen if the shut down continued into January and Mr. Hunsinger responded that the \$311,000 available was sufficient to cover basic payroll and benefit costs for up to eight months, but they would not be able to approve any new training grants, nor would they be able to fund the planned purchases of computers for staff and program participants. He said that he intended to delay as many expenses as he was able to in order to preserve the monies available until the shut down concluded. Mr. Hunsinger advised that he would keep Paul Dusek, County Administrator, apprised of this situation.

Mrs. Wood left the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Mr. Loeb said it seemed to be a waste of money to continue paying salaries and benefits for staff that were unable to facilitate adult programs and Ms. Sano interjected that there were adults currently in training; Mr. Hunsinger added that they would not be approving any new training and he noted that the bulk of the training provided was in a one-on-one setting with people who were unemployed.

Mr. Strainer apprised that during the prior week a meeting had been held to discuss the proposed Veterans' Court. He said he had been very happy with the attendance at the meeting which had included himself, Supervisor Girard, Warren County Supreme Court Judges Krogmann and Muller, Warren County Court Judge Hall and Town of Queensbury Court Judge McNally, as well as Denise DiResta, Director of Warren County Veterans' Services, Robert Iusi, Director of Warren County Probation, Courtney Slade, Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and Bonnie Nadig, Commissioner of Jurors, all of whom were in favor of the program. He said he still needed to meet with the District Attorney, Public Defender and Sheriff to hold discussions with them and he said he would keep the Committee informed.

As there was no further business to come before the Human Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Vanselow and seconded by Mrs. Fraiser, Mr. Strainer adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Legislative Office Specialist